

## France – Before the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CP

---

**Published:** *La Voix du Peuple* April 10<sup>th</sup> 1964 English version: JPRS, Translations on International Communist Developments

**Transcription, Editing and Markup:** Paul Saba and Sam Richards.

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the Creative Commons Common Deed. You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proof readers above.

---

In a few weeks, the French Communist Party, with a revisionist leadership, will hold its 17th Congress. On this topic, the bulletin of information of the Marxist-Leninists has published, in the March issue, an editorial briefly analyzing the draft resolution of this congress. We are happy to publish some extracts from this article.

"...The 17th Congress will unfold within the particular context of this situation in fact created by the existence of a great ideological debate at the heart of the international communist movement.

In this context, two elements stand out clearly:

1.-A document, the declaration of 1960, collectively realized by the 81 communist and workers parties, fixes the general lines of what should be the action of each communist party in the light of the objective political reality on the international or national level.

2.-Experience shows that the leadership of our Party is dominated by modern revisionism.

It is in terms of these two elements that, for our part, we recommend the study of the draft resolution of the 17th Congress.

The declaration of 1960, signed by the French Communist Party, notably teaches that:

"American imperialism has become the greatest international exploiter, is the principal force of aggression and war, the principal rampart for world reaction, the international "gendarme," the enemy of the people of the entire world."

Now, paradoxically, this very American imperialism which possesses bases for aggression in France itself, is not even mentioned one single time in these terms, in the draft resolution.

The serious contradictions which appeared between French and American imperialists are lightly skimmed over by the revisionist editors, though French communists should take very

special notice of them in the elaboration of their tactics.

The draft resolution recognizes:

"The American Army still possesses numerous bases on French soil."

But this reality is just a simple affirmation to the French revisionists. It is not followed by any prospect of struggle against the presence, on national soil, of these nuclear bases.

Perhaps this signifies that the French revisionists no longer consider American imperialism to be "the enemy of the people of the entire world."

On the other hand, the revisionist editors are not very loquacious about the movements of national liberation. Substantially, their analysis is limited to this:

"The anti-colonialist movement and that of national liberation precipitates the disintegration of the imperialist system. We are witnessing the development of the liberating struggle of the people who are still undergoing colonialist oppression."

That is pretty good. The revisionists are witnessing the liberating struggle of these people. They witnessed more or less passively the war in Algeria. If one can really qualify as passive the shameful practice of voting full power to their "comrades" Guy Mollet and Lacoste, the fathers of "the last quarter hour," the principal people responsible for sending the contingent to Algeria.

Unity With The S.F.I.O.?

Lenin said of social-democracy that it is bourgeois ideological current. He indicated, a long time ago, that the social-democratic party is a political detachment of the bourgeoisie, that it is the agent of that class in the workers movement and its social pillar.

The principal French social-democratic party, the S.F.I.O., has rejected all marxist conception of history for a long time and has affirmed itself --particularly during its periods of political power-- to be eminently reactionary. Its crimes against the French working class, against the oppressed peoples in the midst of their struggles, etc., would be too many to enumerate here.

The French social-democracy is, furthermore, closely allied to American imperialism.

For the revisionist leaders and their draft resolution, all of this is false, or perhaps unimportant. On the contrary, they shamelessly flaunt a long list of affinities, conceptions and even common goals which, according to them, will exist between the Communist Party and the S.F.I.O.

In our opinion, this paralleling, placing on an equal foot, of the Communist Party and the S.F.I.O., whose leaders often caused the blood of the workers to flow, is particularly shocking and insulting to the French workers movement and

its heroes.

Perhaps we can see there a step forward in the search for organic unity which the social-democrats and revisionist leaders, considering the Congress of Tours as outmoded, judge to be necessary but do not yet dare avow it formally.

The unity of the working class which the revisionist leaders invoke to mask their infamy is, certainly, necessary. But it must be realized at the base, around the revolutionary positions of the proletariat, and not at the summit between social-democrats and revisionists.

The problems of unity, as they are presented by the revisionists in the draft resolution are surrounded by the usual demagogy, thanks to which there are still some who are fooled. But attentive study of it is edifying when it comes to noting the high degree of revisionism achieved by the leadership of the Party.

